

## CON

3. Opinion, generally in a sense of contempt; fancy; imagination; fantastical notion.  
I know not how *conceit* may rob  
The treasury of life, when life itself  
Yields to the theft. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
Strong *conceits*, like a new principle, carries all easily with  
it, when yet above common sense.  
Malbranche has an odd *conceit*,  
As ever enter'd Frenchman's pate. *Prior.*
4. Opinion in a neutral sense.  
Seest thou a man wise in his own *conceit*? There is more  
hope of a fool than of him. *Prov. xxvi. 12.*  
I shall not fail to approve the fair *conceit*  
The king hath of you. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
5. A pleasant fancy.  
His wit is as thick as Tewksbury mustard: there is no more  
*conceit* in him than is in a mallet. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.*  
While he was on his way to the gibbet, a freak took him in  
the head to go off with a *conceit*. *L'Estrange.*
6. Sentiment, as distinguished from imagery.  
And glitt'ring thoughts struck out at ev'ry line. *Pope.*
7. Fondness; favourable opinion; opinionative pride.  
Since by a little studying in learning, and great *conceit* of  
himself, he has lost his religion; may he find it again by  
harder study under humbler truth. *Bentley.*
8. Out of *CONCEIT* with. No longer fond of.  
Not that I dare assume to myself to have put him out of *conceit*  
with it, by having convinced him of the fantasticalness of  
it. *Tillotson, Preface.*  
What hath chiefly put me out of *conceit* with this moving  
manner, is the frequent disappointment. *Swift.*
- TO CONCEIT. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To conceive; to imagine;  
to think; to believe.  
One of two bad ways you must *conceit* me,  
Either a coward, or a flatterer. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*  
They looked for great matters at their hands, in a cause  
which they *conceited* to be for the liberty of the subject. *Bacon.*  
He *conceits* himself to be struck at, when he is not so much  
as thought of. *L'Estrange.*  
The strong, by *conceiting* themselves weak, are thereby rendered  
as unactive, and consequently as useless, as if they really  
were so. *South's Sermons.*
- CONCEITED. *participle, adj.* [from *conceit*.]  
1. Endowed with fancy.  
He was of countenance amiable, of feature comely, active of  
body; well spoken, pleasantly *conceited*, and sharp of wit.  
*Kneller's History of the Turks.*  
2. Proud; fond of himself; opinionative; affected; fantastical.  
There is another extreme in obscure writers, which some  
empty *conceited* heads are apt to run into, out of a prodigality  
of words, and a want of sense. *Pelton on the Claffick.*  
If you think me too *conceited*,  
Or to passion quickly heated.  
What you write of me, would make me more *conceited* than  
what I scribble myself. *Pope.*
3. With of before the object of conceit.  
Every man is building a several way, impotently *conceited* of  
his own model and his own materials. *Dryden.*  
If we consider how vicious and corrupt the Athenians were,  
how *conceited* of their own wit, science, and politeness. *Bentley.*
- CONCEITEDLY. *adv.* [from *conceited*.] Fancifully; whimsically.  
*Conceitedly* dress her, and be assign'd  
By you fit place for every flower and jewel;  
Make her for love fit fuel. *Donne.*
- CONCEITEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *conceited*.] Pride; opinionative-  
ness; fondness of himself.  
When men think none worthy esteem but such as claim  
under their own pretences, partiality and *conceitedness* makes  
them give the pre-eminence. *Clifford on Pride.*
- CONCEITLESS. *adj.* [from *conceit*.] Stupid; without thought;  
dull of apprehension.  
Think'st thou, I am so shallow, so *conceitless*,  
To be seduced by thy flattery. *Shakespeare's Two Gent. of Verona.*
- CONCEIVABLE. *adj.* [from *conceive*.]  
1. That may be imagined or thought.  
If it were possible to contrive an invention, whereby any  
*conceivable* weight may be moved by any *conceivable* power with  
the same quickness by the hand, without other instrument,  
the works of nature would be too much subjected to art.  
*Wilkins's Math. Magick.*
2. That may be understood or believed.  
The freezing of the words in the air in the Northern climes,  
as is *conceivable* as this strange union. *Glanv. Serp. c. 4.*  
It is not *conceivable* that it should be indeed that very person,  
whose shape and voice it assumed. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
- CONCEIVABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *conceivable*.] The quality of  
being conceivable. *Diſt.*
- CONCEIVABLY. *adv.* [from *conceivable*.] In a conceivable or  
intelligible manner.
- TO CONCEIVE. *v. a.* [from *conceivere*, Fr. *concepire*, Latin.]

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1. To admit into the womb.  
I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother *conceive*  
me. *Psalms li. 5.*
2. To form in the mind; to imagine.  
Nebuchadnezzar hath *conceived* a purpose against you. *Jer.*
3. To comprehend; to understand. *He conceives the whole  
system.*  
This kiss, if it durst speak,  
Would stretch thy spirits up into the air:  
*Conceive*, and fare thee well. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
4. To think; to be of opinion.  
If you compare my gentlemen with Sir John, you will  
hardly *conceive* him to have been bred in the same climate. *Sw.*
- TO CONCEIVE. *v. n.*  
1. To think; to have an idea of.  
The griev'd commons  
Hardly *conceive* of me: let it be not'd,  
That, through our intercession, this revokement  
And pardon comes. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*  
*Conceive* of things clearly and distinctly in their own natures;  
*conceive* of things completely in all their parts; *conceive* of  
things comprehensively in all their properties and relations;  
*conceive* of things extensively in all their kinds; *conceive* of  
things orderly, or in a proper method. *Watts's Logic.*
2. To become pregnant.  
The flocks should *conceive* when they came to drink. *Gen.*  
The beauteous maid, whom he beheld, possels'd:  
*Conceiving* as she slept, her fruitful womb  
Swell'd with the founder of immortal Rome. *Addison.*
- CONCEIVER. *n. f.* [from *conceive*.] One that understands or  
apprehends.  
Though heretofore prudent symbols and pious allegories be  
made by wiser *conceivers*, yet common heads will fly unto su-  
perstitious applications. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. 7. c. 1.*
- CONCEIVER. *n. f.* [from *conceive*, Latin.]  
1. Concert of voices; harmony; concord of sound.  
It is to be considered, that whatsoever virtue is in num-  
bers, for conducting to *concert* of notes, is rather to be ascribed  
to the ante-number than to the entire number. *Bacon.*
2. Consistency.  
'Tis in *concert* to his own principles, which allow no me-  
rit, no intrinsic worth to accompany one state more than  
another. *Atterbury.*
- TO CONCENTRATE. *v. a.* [from *concentrere*, Fr. from *con* and  
*centrum*, Lat.] To drive into a narrow compass; to drive  
towards the center.  
Spirit of vinegar, *concentrated* and reduced to its greatest  
strength, will coagulate the serum. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
- CONCENTRATION. *n. f.* [from *concentrate*.] Collection into a  
narrow space round the center; compression into a narrow  
compass.  
All circular bodies, that receive a *concentration* of the light,  
must be shadowed in a circular manner. *Peacocks on Drawing.*
- TO CONCENTRE. *v. n.* [from *concentrere*, Fr. from *con* and *centrum*,  
Latin.] To tend to one common centre; to have the same  
centre with something else.  
The bricks having first been formed in a circular mould,  
and then cut, before their burning, into four quarters or more,  
the sides afterwards join so closely, and the points *concentre* so  
exactly, that the pillars appear one intire piece. *Watson.*  
All these are like to many lines drawn from several objects,  
that some way relate to him, and *concentre* in him. *Hale.*
- TO CONCENTRE. *v. a.* To emit towards one centre.  
The having a part less to animate, will rather serve to *con-  
centre* the spirits, and make them more active in the rest.  
*Decay of Piety.*
- In thee *concentring* all their precious beams  
Of sacred influence! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. 9. l. 106.*
- CONCENTRIC. *adj.* [from *concentricus*, Lat.] Having one com-  
mon centre.  
If, as in water stirr'd, more circles be  
Produc'd by one, love such additions take;  
Those, like so many spheres, but one heav'n make;  
For they are all *concentrick* unto thee. *Donne.*  
Any substance, pitched steadily upon two points, as on an  
axis, and moving about on that axis, also describes a circle  
*concentrick* to the axis. *Moxon's Mech. Exerc.*  
If the crystalline humour had been *concentrick* to the scle-  
roides, the eye would not have admitted a whole hemisphere  
at one view. *Ray on the Creation.*  
If a stone be thrown into stagnating water, the waves ex-  
cited thereby continue some time to arise in the place where the  
stone fell into the water, and are propagated from thence into  
*concentrick* circles upon the surface of the water to great  
distances. *Newton's Opt.*  
The manner of its concretion is by *concentrick* rings, like  
those of an onion about the first kernel. *Arbutnot on Diet.*  
Circular revolutions in *concentrick* orbs about the sun, or  
other central body, could in no wise be attained without the  
power of the Divine Arm. *Bentley's Sermons.*
- CONCEPTACLE. *n. f.* [from *conceptaculum*, Lat.] That in which any  
thing is contained; a vessel. *There*

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- There is at this day resident, in that huge *conceptacle*, water  
enough to effect such a deluge. *Woodward's Nat. Hist. Pref.*
- CONCEPTIBLE. *adj.* [from *conceptio*, Latin.] That  
may be conceived; intelligible; capable to be understood.  
Some of his attributes, and the manifestations thereof, are  
not only highly delectable to the intellective faculty, but are  
most suitable and easily *conceptible* by us, because apparent in  
his works. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
- CONCEPTION. *n. f.* [from *conceptio*, Latin.]  
1. The act of conceiving, or quickening with pregnancy.  
I will greatly multiply thy sorrow, and thy *conception*; in  
sorrow thou shalt bring forth children. *Gen. iii. 16.*  
Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply  
By thy *conception*; children thou shalt bring  
In sorrow forth. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 194.*
2. The state of being conceived.  
Joy had the like *conception* in our eyes,  
And at that instant, like a babe, sprung up. *Shakespeare.*  
Our own productions flatter us: it is impossible not to be  
fond of them at the moment of their *conception*. *Dryden's Dufresne.*
3. Notion; idea; image in the mind.  
As *conceptions* are the images or resemblances of things to  
the mind within itself, in the like manner are words or names  
the marks, tokens, or resemblances of those *conceptions* to the  
minds of them whom we converse with. *South's Sermons.*  
Consult the acutest poets and speakers, and they will confess  
that their quickest, most admired *conceptions* were such as darted  
into their minds, like sudden flashes of lightning, they knew  
not how, nor whence; and not by any certain consequence,  
or dependence of one thought upon another, as it is in mat-  
ters of ratiocination. *South's Sermons.*  
To have right *conceptions* about them, we must bring our  
understandings to the inflexible natures and unalterable rela-  
tions of things, and not endeavour to bring things to any pre-  
conceived notions of our own. *Locke.*
4. Sentiments; purpose.  
Thou but remember'st me of my own *conception*. I have  
perceived a most faint neglect of late; which I have rather  
blamed as my own jealous curiosity, than as a very pretence  
and purpose of unkindness. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
Pleaze your highness, note  
His dangerous *conception* in this point:  
Not friended by his wish to your high person,  
His will is most malignant, and it stretches  
Beyond you to your friends. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
5. Apprehension; knowledge.  
And as if beasts conceiv'd what reason were,  
And that *conception* should distinctly show  
They should the name of reasonable bear;  
For, without reason, none could reason know. *Davies.*
6. *Conceit*; sentiment; pointed thought.  
He is too flatulent sometimes, and sometimes too dry;  
many times unequal, and almost always forced; and, besides,  
is full of *conceptions*, points of epigram, and witticisms; all  
which are not only below the dignity of heroic verse, but  
contrary to its nature. *Dryden's Juvenal, Dedication.*
- CONCEPTIOUS. *adj.* [from *conceptio*, Latin.] Apt to conceive;  
fruitful; pregnant.  
Common mother,  
Enscar thy fertile and *conceptious* womb;  
Let it no more bring out to ingrateful man. *Shakespeare's Timon.*
- CONCEPTIVE. *adj.* [from *conceptio*, Latin.] Capable to conceive.  
In hot climates, and where the uterine parts exceed in heat,  
by the coldness of this simple they may be reduced into a *con-  
ceptive* constitution. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 7.*
- TO CONCERN. *v. a.* [from *concernere*, Fr. *concernere*, low Latin.]  
1. To relate to; to belong to.  
Exclude the use of natural reasoning about the sense of holy  
scripture, concerning the articles of our faith; and then, that  
the scripture doth *concern* the articles of our faith, who can  
allure us? *Hooker, b. iii. f. 8.*  
Count Claudio may hear; for what I would speak of *con-  
cerns* him. *Shakespeare's Much ado about Nothing.*  
Gracious things  
Thou hast reveal'd; those chiefly which *concern*  
Just Abraham, and his seed. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xii.*  
This place *concerns* not at all the dominion of one brother  
over the other. *Locke.*
2. To affect with some passion; to touch nearly; to be of im-  
portance to.  
I would not  
The cause were known to them it most *concerns*. *Shakespeare.*  
Our wars with France have affected us in our most tender  
interests, and *concerned* us more than those with any other  
nation. *Addison on the State of the War.*  
It much *concerns* them not to suffer the king to establish his  
authority on this side. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*  
The more the authority of any station in society is ex-  
tended, the more it *concerns* publick happiness that it be com-  
mitted to men fearing God. *Rogers's Sermons.*
3. To interest; to engage by interest.  
I knew a young negroe who was sick of the small-pox: I

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- found by enquiry, at a person's *concerned* for him, that the little  
tumours left whitish specks behind them. *Boyle on Colours.*
- Above the rest two goddesses appear, *Dryden's Ec.*  
*Concern'd* for each: here Venus, Juno there. *concerns* itself to  
Providence, where it loves a nation, *concerns* itself to  
own and assert the interest of religion, by blasting the spoilers  
of religious persons and places. *South's Sermons.*  
Whatever past actions it cannot reconcile, or appropriate  
to that present self by consciousness, it can be no more *con-  
cerned* in than if they had never been done. *Locke.*  
They think themselves out of the reach of providence, and  
no longer *concerned* to solicit his favour. *Rogers, Sermon ii.*
4. To disturb; to make uneasy.  
In one compressing engine I shut a sparrow, without forcing  
any air in; and in an hour the bird began to pant, and be *con-  
cerned*, and in less than an hour and a half to be sick. *Derham.*
- CONCERN. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. Business; affair; considered as relating to some one.  
Let early care thy main *concerns* secure. *Dunham.*  
Things of less moment may delays endure.  
This manner of exposing the private *concerns* of families,  
and sacrificing the secrets of the dead to the curiosity of the  
living, is one of those licentious practices, which might well  
deserve the animadversion of our government. *Addison's Freeholder.*  
A heathen emperor said, if the gods were offended, it  
was their own *concerns*, and they were able to vindicate them-  
selves. *Swift.*  
Religion is no trifling *concern*, to be performed in any careless  
and superficial manner. *Rogers, Sermon xiii.*
2. Interest; engagement.  
No plots th' alarm to his retirements give;  
'Tis all mankind's *concern* that he should live. *Dryden.*  
When we speak of the conflagration of the world, these  
have no *concern* in the question. *Barnet's Theory of the Earth.*
3. Importance; moment.  
Myfterious secrets of a high *concern*,  
And weighty truths, solid convincing sense,  
Explain'd by unaffected eloquence. *Roscommon.*  
The mind is stunned and dazzled amidst that variety of ob-  
jects: the cannot apply herself to those things which are of the  
utmost *concern* to her. *Addison's Spectator, N. 465.*
4. Passion; affection; regard.  
Ah, what *concerns* did both your souls divide!  
Your honour gave us what your love deny'd. *Dryden.*  
O Marcia, let me hope thy kind *concerns*,  
And gentle wishes, follow me to battle! *Addison's Cato.*  
Why all this *concern* for the poor? We want them not, as  
the country is now managed: where the plough has no work,  
one family can do the business of fifty. *Swift.*
- CONCERNING. *prep.* [from *concernere*: this word, originally a par-  
ticipial, has before a noun the force of a preposition.] Relating  
to; with relation to.  
There is not any thing more subject to error than the true  
judgment *concerning* the power and forces of an estate. *Bacon.*  
The ancients had no higher recourse than to nature, as may  
appear by a discourse *concerning* this point in Strabo. *Brown.*  
None can demonstrate that there is such an island as Ja-  
maica, yet, upon testimony, I am free from all doubt *concern-  
ing* it. *Tillotson, Preface.*
- CONCERNMENT. *n. f.* [from *concernere*.]  
1. The thing in which we are concerned or interested; affair;  
business; interest.  
To mix with thy *concernments* I desist  
Henceforth, nor too much disapprove my own. *Milt. Agon.*  
This shews how useful you have been,  
To bring the king's *concernments* in. *Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 2.*  
Yet when we're sick, the doctor's fetch in haste,  
Leaving our great *concernment* to the last. *Denham.*  
When my *concernment* takes up no more room or compass  
than myself, then, so long as I know where to breathe and to  
exist, I know also where to be happy. *South.*  
He that is wise in the affairs and *concernments* of other men,  
but careless and negligent of his own, that man may be said  
to be busy, but he is not wise. *Tillotson.*  
Our spiritual interests, and the great *concernments* of a future  
state, would doubtless recur often. *Atterbury.*  
Propositions which extend only to the present life, are  
small, compared with those that have influence upon our ever-  
lasting *concernments*. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
2. Relation; influence.  
Sir, 'tis of near *concernment*, and imports  
No less than the king's life and honour. *Denham's Sophy.*  
He justly fears a peace with me would prove  
Of ill *concernment* to his haughty love. *Dryden's Emperor.*
3. Interference; business.  
The great *concernment* of men is with men, one amongst  
another. *Locke.*
4. Importance; moment.  
I look upon experimental truths as matters of great *con-  
cernment* to mankind. *Boyle.*
5. Interposition; regard; meddling.  
He married a daughter to the earl, without any other ap-  
probation